

FOLLYCON 88



**** Bid Report 1 ****

New Readers Start Here

The Eastercon is the biggest regular British Science Fiction Convention. It offers a programme of talks, panels and games, with well-known - nay, famous! - guests and plenty of opportunities to meet friends old and new over a drink (each). Follycon is a bid by a group of people (see below for names, descriptions and reward money) to hold the Eastercon in Liverpool in 1988. Now read on...

Where are we?

Follycon is going to be held in the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool. The Adelphi is a large hotel, with experience of holding Star Trek conventions, but has not previously been used for an Eastercon. We really can't imagine why not: it has a large number of function rooms in an excellent layout, the majority opening directly off a large central lounge; this will help integrate the social and programming sides of the convention. There is also plenty of accommodation, with nearly 600 beds in the Adelphi and over 400 more in overflow hotels within five minutes walk. So walking will be at a minimum, both within the hotel and outside it. The Adelphi is less than four minutes walk from both Lime Street and Central Stations, and has car-parking on site. It is in the very centre of town, which means that the many attractions of Liverpool are within easy reach for those people who don't like to spend all their time in the convention hotel.

At present we are negotiating with the hotel, and have already got reasonable room rates out of them, but will be dealing for more - details will be given when the dust settles. To help us with this, we have called in the Conference Office of the Liverpool Tourist Board, who are assisting with our negotiations. They have made it plain that they want us to come to Liverpool, and have suggested the possibility of a guided tour of the town known as the Ale Trail.

What are we?

Why "Follycon"? Well, firstly because the convention will begin on April 1st, 1988. Secondly, because the Adelphi hotel bears a strong resemblance to a Victorian folly. These are enough reasons that we don't feel we need to act the Fool, though he does appear on the convention badges - look out for them for further information. This is an entirely serious bid: the committee itself has experience of running Unicons, Trek/Media cons and previous Eastercons - even the odd Eurocon and Worldcon! We also have a large number of consultants, advisors and Hidden Forces; we are not trying to do this alone, but backed by as many people as possible. Safety in numbers, and so forth.

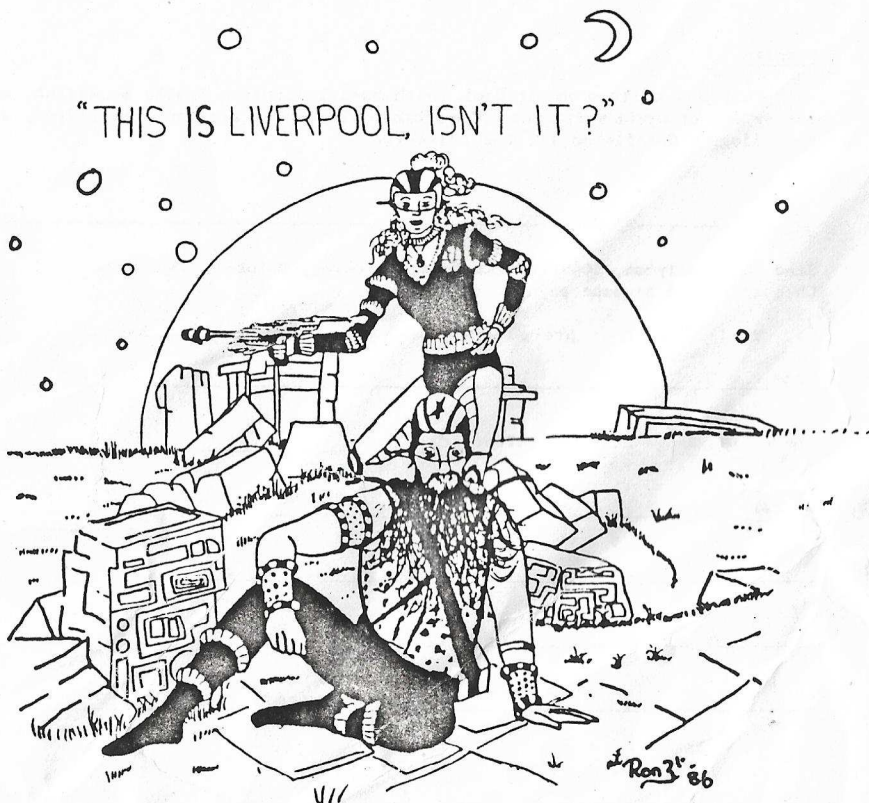
We have a wide range of interests in fandom, and this is reflected in the major concept behind this convention. It is as follows: fandom is split into a number of sections, such as Literary, Art, Gaming, Comics, Media and Fanzine fandom, and these sections tend to become divided. The Eastercon, as Britain's biggest convention, should be a place where these groups can interact and exchange ideas. The programme will fully reflect the interests of each of these groups, and a number of events and programme items comparing the different branches, or of interest to people of different backgrounds are planned. Most of these branches have at least one representative on the committee. We will also be aiming to attract people previously unfamiliar with fandom, and those drawn into it by the British Worldcon the autumn before and wondering which way to go next.

We don't plan to do this all on our own, though. Arrogance we got, but not that much. We would be very interested to hear any suggestions, hints, ideas for programming or guests, or blackmail threats, especially those fitting the above theme. The address is the same as that for the pre-supports, so why not send in a few thoughts at the same time as you join?

Who Are We?

Where did we get this committee from, anyway? Well, first we had some people and ideas, and then we drew up a list of the jobs to be done, and we found that there were a lot more jobs than people. So we got a few more people, but there were still more jobs, and rather than have a committee of thirty, we decided to take on more than one job each (innovative, hey?). The actual list at this stage, in strict alphabetical order, is:

Michael Abbott: Writing Publications (why do you think we're listed in alphabetical order, huh?) and Programming Assistant
Dave Brown: Treasurer and Legal Advice
Pat Brown: Membership Secretary and Mailing Address
Colin Fine: Youthful Statesman (changed from Elder Statesman by request) and Administration
Steve Linton: Programme Organization, Publicity Administration and Official Steve
Ian Maughan: Technical Wizard and Hotel Liaison
Alison McDonald: Committee Archivist and Programming Assistant
Karen Naylor: Chief Hotel Liaison and Creche (oh good grief...)
Cytha North: Dealers' Room, Art (all sorts) and Travel Subsidies
Joan Paterson: Publications Editor (so I'd better be polite) and Everything Medical
Richard Rampant: Technical Wizard's Apprentice and (no kidding!) Producer of Publicity Video
Mike Scott: Operations and Hotel Liaison



Well, as you can see, we've thought of everything (bets?) Those of you wondering about guest liaisons should realise that we plan to have at least one of these for each branch (the committee has the breadth of experience and interest necessary), and those who have noted the lack of a Chairman or Secretary should understand that these posts are rotating. Yes, it's an Eastercon run by a functioning democracy.... In any event, the precise posts allocated are not important, as the same principle is being applied to all areas of the convention: we will not tell one person to go off and deal with a job, but to organise other people (both committee members and others) around them. Our mix of experienced and newer convention runners will help this, while still guaranteeing plenty of energy and innovation.

This Is What You Do Now

Fill in the form at the bottom of the page, or write all the relevant information on a piece of paper, enclose the paltry sum of one pound per person, and send it off to the address below. This entitles you to pre-supporting membership, which means you receive word through the post (or otherwise) of how we're doing; and we use the money to fund our bid. Voting will be at Becon '87, the preceeding Eastercon, so do come along and vote for us as well. The money will count towards Supporting or Attending membership of the convention if we win the bid. While you're writing, why not give us any advice, requests or offers of help you think suitable? We promise to listen. The address is **Follycon, 104 Pretoria Road, Patchway, Bristol, BS12 SP2**, for those of you who've just sealed the envelope with the slip inside.

Credits

This was written by Michael, with assorted help. Typing by Alison, and art by one of Gytha's friends in Brighton. Thanks to everyone who helped, and to Kellogg's Cornflakes for the scissors.



Send to: **Follycon, 104 Pretoria Road, Patchway, Bristol, BS12 SP2.**
Cheques should be made payable to **Follycon**.

Yes! I wish to pre-support Follycon. I enclose one pound.

Name _____

Convention Badge Name (if different) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____